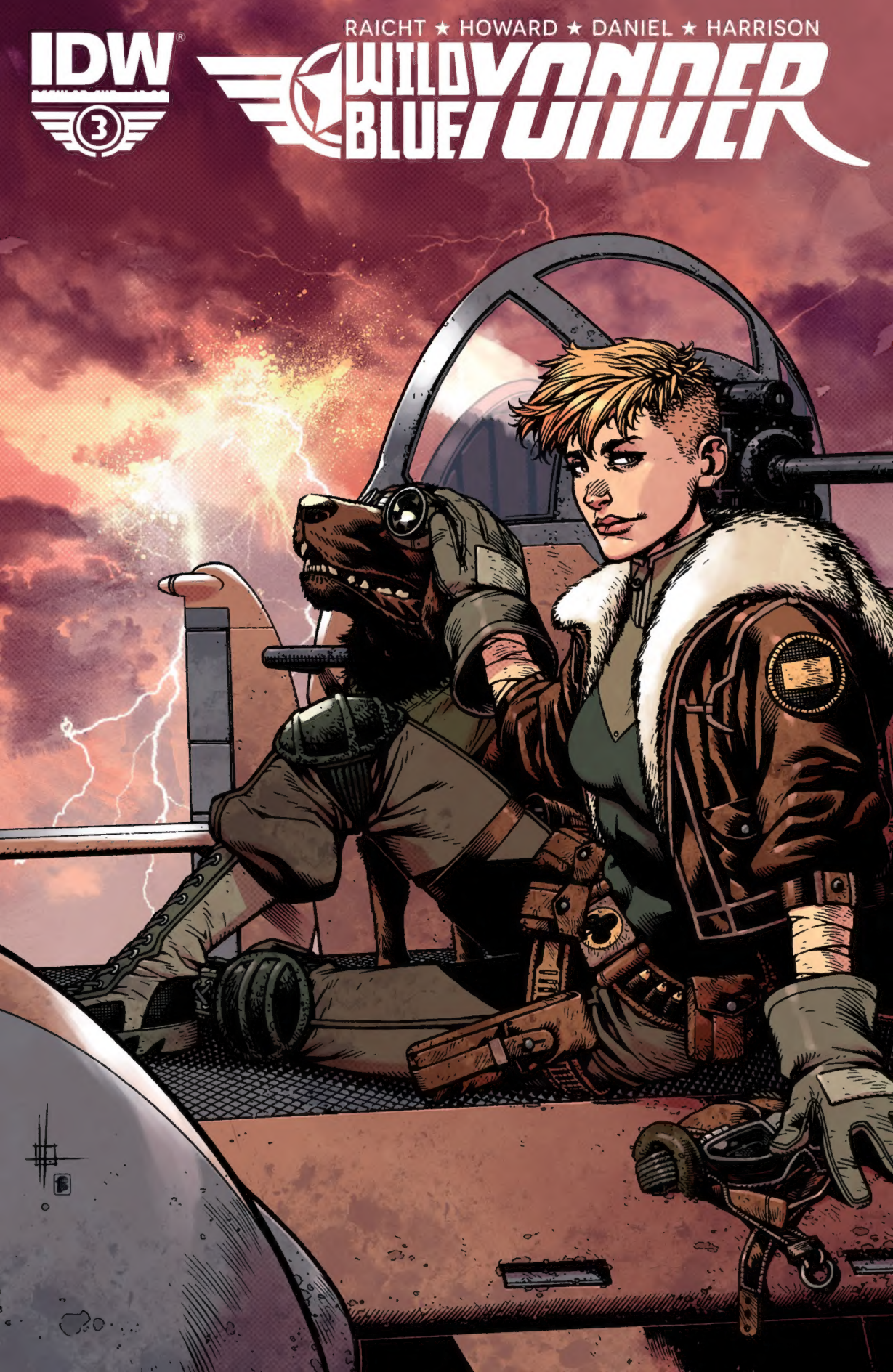
IDW
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RAICHT ★ HOWARD ★ DANIEL ★ HARRISON
WILD BLUE YONDER

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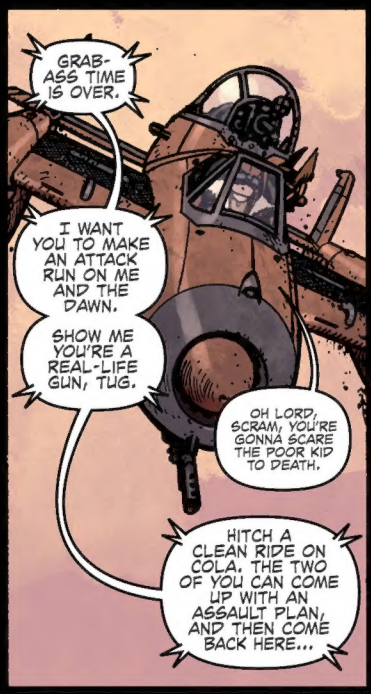
A WEEK LATER...

SO, YOU THINK YOU'RE READY FOR ALL THIS, TUG?

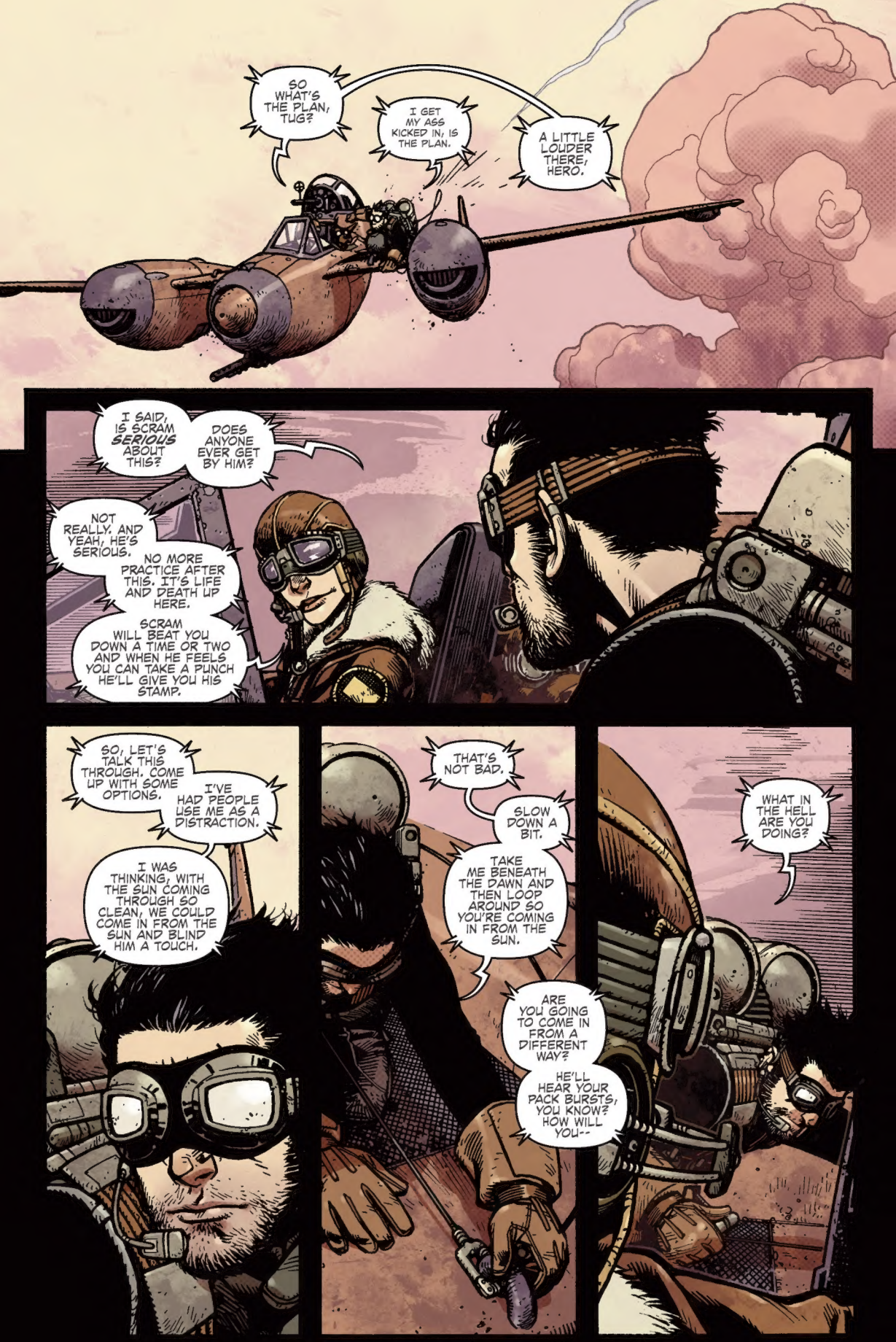
YEAH. SURE. YOU TRAINED ME, RIGHT?

YOU'VE TAUGHT ME HOW TO TAKE A GUY DOWN.

CHAPTER THREE



OH, SURE. NO PROBLEM.
THE EXERCISE YOU SET UP YESTERDAY WAS TOUGHER.
RIGHT. NO SIMPLE EXERCISE TODAY.
THIS TIME YOU GO THROUGH ME TO GET TO THE KID.
WAIT?!
WHAT?!
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
I CAN'T TAKE YOU. WE BOTH KNOW THAT.
YOU THINK I'M THE BADDEST HOMBRE IN THE SKY?
NOT A CHANCE.
MIGHT AS WELL DIVE WITHOUT A PACK AND GET IT OVER WITH IF YOU THINK I'M THE WORST YOU'LL SEE.
POKE POKE
YOU'RE SERIOUS?
DEAD.
DON'T MAKE ME ADD A TIME LIMIT.
HE'S ALL YOURS, COLA. SIGNING OFF, SO YOU TWO CAN PLAN.
CLICK
WHAT?
TOO MUCH?


SO WHAT'S THE PLAN, TUG?
I GET MY ASS KICKED IN, IS THE PLAN.
A LITTLE LOUDER THERE, HERO.
I SAID, IS SCRAM SERIOUS ABOUT THIS?
DOES ANYONE EVER GET BY HIM?
NOT REALLY. AND YEAH, HE'S SERIOUS.
NO MORE PRACTICE AFTER THIS. IT'S LIFE AND DEATH UP HERE.
SCRAM WILL BEAT YOU DOWN A TIME OR TWO AND WHEN HE FEELS YOU CAN TAKE A PUNCH HE'LL GIVE YOU HIS STAMP.
SO, LET'S TALK THIS THROUGH. COME UP WITH SOME OPTIONS.
I'VE HAD PEOPLE USE ME AS A DISTRACTION.
I WAS THINKING, WITH THE SUN COMING THROUGH SO CLEAN, WE COULD COME IN FROM THE SUN AND BLIND HIM A TOUCH.
THAT'S NOT BAD.
SLOW DOWN A BIT.
TAKE ME BENEATH THE DAWN AND THEN LOOP AROUND SO YOU'RE COMING IN FROM THE SUN.
ARE YOU GOING TO COME IN FROM A DIFFERENT WAY?
HE'LL HEAR YOUR PACK BURSTS, YOU KNOW? HOW WILL YOU--
WHAT IN THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?

HERE THEY COME. HE'S GOT HER MOVING FAST.
I LIKE IT.
GONNA USE THE SUN.
NOT GONNA WORK, BUT HE'S THINKING.
COMING IN HOT.
YEAH!
I LIKE IT. COME ON.
COME ON!

...?
TEX, WAS THAT HIS PANTS?
UM...
A DISTRACTION. NOT BAD.
BUT HE'S GOING TO HAVE TO POP UP SOON. HE CAN'T STAY EXPOSED FOR LONG.
TOO COLD FOR THAT.
CLICK
SONOVA-

SLAP
I NOTICED A PANEL NEAR THE WASTE AREA WAS DAMAGED LAST TIME WE WERE OUT PRACTICING.
I BROKE MY WAY IN AND--
PUNCH!

--THEN HE TOLD HIM TO PUT HIS PANTS ON BEFORE HE CAUGHT A COLD.

I'M SURPRISED THE BIG GUY DIDN'T *DEFORM* HIM.
WELL, HE'LL BE UGLY SOON ENOUGH, WON'T HE?

AND NOW WE GET TO CARRY THE POOR BASTARD TO HIS DOOM.
STOP IT, BRICK. THAT'S NOT FUNNY.

SCRAM COMES HOME EVERY TIME.
SCRAM IS A FORCE OF NATURE--
--MEANER THAN THAT RADIATION STORM BREWING OUTSIDE.
UNSTOPPABLE.
THE REST OF US ARE LESS THAN THAT.
WE'RE HUMAN.

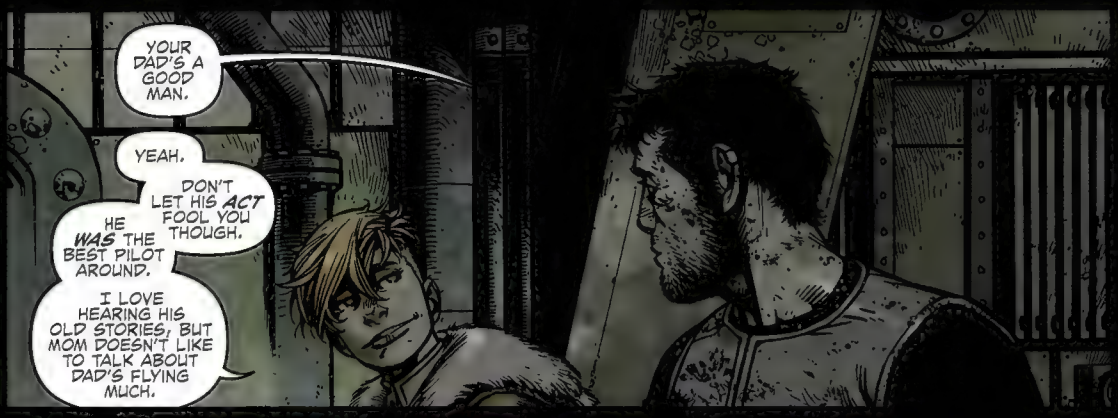
WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO?
DUTY CALLS.
YOUR MOM WANTED ME TO RUN AN END AROUND ON THE STORM CLOUD UP AHEAD TO MAKE SURE NOTHING NASTY IS WAITING ON THE OTHER SIDE.

GOOD LUCK...
GIVE THE POOR BOY SOME ROOM, GANG.
THANKS, SIR.
OLIVIA SAYS WELCOME ABOARD OFFICIALLY.
SHE DID?
NO, HONEY, SHE DIDN'T REALLY SAY THAT BUT I'M SURE SHE'S THINKING IT.
WHAT'S THIS?
DON'T KNOW. GOT IT FROM OLIVIA'S DAD, COLA'S GRANDPA.
MY FIRST COMMANDER.
GAVE IT TO ME WHEN I FINISHED MY FLIGHT TRAINING IN THIS BEAUTY.
AND HE ALMOST USED IT TO BASH MY SKULL IN WHEN HE CAUGHT OLIVIA AND ME BELOW DECK DRINKING AND--
TONK TONK
DAD, STOP.
PLEASE.
WELL, I WISH HE COULD SEE US NOW. HIS DAUGHTER HAS DONE GOOD.
REAL GOOD.

THIS IS YOUR PLANE?
WAS. WE'RE BOTH USED UP I'M AFRAID.
THAT'S NOT TRUE. YOU WERE THE BEST IN THE SKY, DAD.
SECOND BEST.
THE EXECUTIONER AND ITS FLEET, THEY HAD A PILOT WITH THEM... THE JUDGE.
YOU EVER HEAR OF HIM, TUG?
NO, SIR.
SURE YOU HAVE. I MENTIONED HIM THE DAY I BROUGHT YOU IN.
WELL, I GUESS I HAVE THEN.
WELL, HE WAS A REAL DEVIL. HE BLEW ME TO BITS... LOST 12 THAT DAY.
TWO PLANES.
ALL OF OUR GUNS...
...OLIVIA'S DAD.
YOU MADE IT HOME THOUGH.
NOT ALL OF ME.

OLIVIA TOOK COMMAND THAT DAY.
HER FATHER DIED ON THE DECK. SHE TALKED ME THROUGH SOME ROUGH SKIES.
OLIVIA'S ORDERS CUT US FREE BEFORE THE EXECUTIONER AND THE REST OF HER FLEET COULD BLOCK US IN.
SHE SAVED US...
...WITH THIS LITTLE LADY BOUNCING ON HER LAP.
I USED TO WORK ON HER, BUT... OUR BEST MECHANIC WAS OLD AND SENILE. A BIT CONFUSED AT TIMES. HE PASSED ON BEFORE WE COULD REALLY FIX HER.
WE HAVE A GOOD ONE NOW, BUT HE CAN'T BUILD THINGS.
HE JUST KEEPS THEM FLYING.
YOU MIGHT JUST NEED TO RESEAL THE HYDRAULICS AND RUN SOME TN-S CABLE. THEN I BET THIS BOAT COULD GET AIRBORNE AGAIN.
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?
MY DAD WAS AN ENGINEER.
I HELPED HIM WORK ON A LOT OF MACHINES.
COLA TOLD ME ABOUT HOW YOUR DAD PASSED ON.
SAVING THOSE MINERS.
SOUNDS LIKE HE WAS A REAL HERO. NOT MANY MEN GO INTO A PLACE THEY KNOW THEY AIN'T COMING OUT OF.
WHAT DO YOU SAY WE DRINK TO HIM? AND TO YOU BEING A PART OF OUR FAMILY NOW.
TINK

KAAAAAAFFF!
THAT A BOY!
KAFF.
KFF.
COME ON BEFORE HE CONVINCES YOU YOU AREN'T A REAL MAN UNTIL YOU'VE HAD A SECOND.
GO ON, YOU TWO.
GET GONE.
SNIFFF
HOLD ON THERE! YOU'RE NOT READY FOR THAT, TEXAS.
NO NEED TO GROW UP JUST YET.


YOUR DAD'S A GOOD MAN.
YEAH.
DON'T LET HIS ACT FOOL YOU THOUGH.
HE WAS THE BEST PILOT AROUND.
I LOVE HEARING HIS OLD STORIES, BUT MOM DOESN'T LIKE TO TALK ABOUT DAD'S FLYING MUCH.

SHA-CHUNK!
SHE HAS PLENTY TO TELL ME ABOUT HOW TO DO IT RIGHT OUT THERE, OF COURSE...
SHE'S JUST WORRIED ABOUT YOU. SHE'S YOUR MOM.

SHE THINKS I CAN'T HACK IT. SHE NEVER REALLY WANTED ME OUT THERE.
DAD THOUGHT OTHERWISE.
HE TRAINED ME AND THEY USED TO FIGHT ABOUT IT BUT HE CONVINCED HER... SHE WAS BUSY WITH THE SHIP A LOT.
I THINK SHE THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A PHASE.

WHEN THE TIME CAME FOR THE NEXT IN LINE TO FLY, I WAS THE MOST QUALIFIED, BUT THERE WEREN'T MANY OF US TO CHOOSE FROM, TO BE HONEST.
YOU GOT THE CALL.
THAT HAS TO MEAN SOMETHING.

NOT REALLY.
IF MY MOM--
--IF MY COMMANDING OFFICER DOESN'T THINK I HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE OUT THERE...
...IF SHE REALLY THINKS I CAN'T HACK IT, THEN MAYBE SHE HAS A POINT.

COLA, YOU'RE A GREAT PILOT.
DON'T BE SO HARD ON YOURSELF.

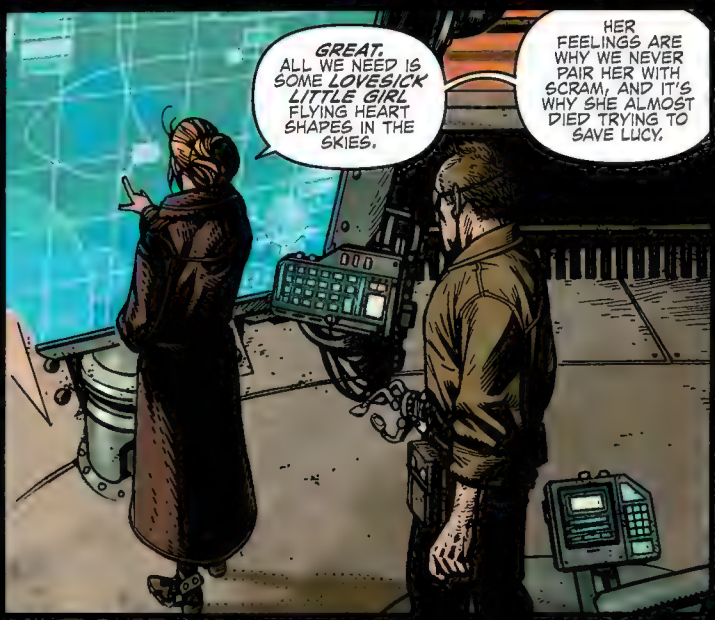
"--THE WORLD CAN STILL BE A BEAUTIFUL PLACE."

"WORTH FIGHTING FOR, TOO."
COLA

THE COMMAND DECK.
YOU WERE MISSED.

I'M SURE.
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NICE OF YOU TO SHOW.
TUG SEEMS LIKE A GOOD KID.
TOO SMART TO BE A GUN, BUT WE DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE IN THE MATTER.
HOWEVER, HE KNOWS HIS WAY AROUND MACHINES.
THAT'S A DEFINITE BONUS.

COLA MISSED YOU.
NOW, THAT'S A LAUGH.
SHE'S TAKEN A LIKING TO TUG.


GREAT. ALL WE NEED IS SOME LOVESICK LITTLE GIRL FLYING HEART SHAPES IN THE SKIES.
HER FEELINGS ARE WHY WE NEVER PAIR HER WITH SCRAM, AND IT'S WHY SHE ALMOST DIED TRYING TO SAVE LUCY.

OLIVIA, YOU CAN'T ALWAYS BE HER COMMANDER.
SHE'S YOUR DAUGHTER FIRST.

YOU MADE IT THIS WAY.
SHE SHOULD HAVE BEEN UP HERE WITH ME.
LEARNING TO LEAD.
NOT OUT THERE FLYING. SHE'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO--
SHE IS, OLIVIA.
YOU WON'T LET YOURSELF SEE IT.
YOU NEVER TAUGHT HER TO RESPECT COMMAND.
IF SHE WOULD HAVE LISTENED TO ME IN THE FIRST PLACE WE COULD HAVE SAVED LUCY TOGETHER.
INSTEAD I'M--WE'RE ALL REACTING TO HER RECKLESSNESS.
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE OUT THERE.
THERE'S NO TIME TO THINK.
YOU HAVE TO REACT.
IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO STAY ALIVE.
WE NEED TO BE IN SYNC OR WE WILL DIE.
IF SHE CAN'T HACK IT OUT THERE, IF ANYONE ELSE DIES BECAUSE OF HER, SHE WILL BE DONE.
YOU'RE WRONG.
THE TRUTH IS SHE MIGHT HAVE SAVED LUCY IF YOUR ORDERS HADN'T MADE HER PAUSE FOR A SPLIT SECOND.
YOU CAN'T MESS WITH A PILOT'S INTUITION.
THEY HAVE TO--
SHE'S A CHILD.
SHE'S JOYRIDING OUT THERE.
THAT'S HOW YOU RAISED HER.
IT'S GOING TO GET HER KILLED.
OLIVIA, I--
WE'RE DONE HERE.
NOW, GO ON BACK TO YOUR PARTY.
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.
I HAVE TO FIND A SAFE ZONE FOR US.

LATER THAT EVENING...
TINK TINK
CLUNK
TEXAS, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GET WAY BETTER AT SPYING IF YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO SNEAK UP ON ME.
I WASN'T--
YOU WERE.
NOW MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL--
"--GO OVER THERE AND GRAB ME SOME TOOLS."
NOW, HOLD THOSE TWO WIRES TIGHT.
LISTEN... WE KEEP THIS BETWEEN US, OK?
TUNK! TUNK!
TUNK!
TUG!
WHERE'RE YOU HIDING?!
SCRAM?
I'M IN HERE!
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?

TIME TO GET REVVED UP, M'MAN. LET'S EARN OUR KEEP.
IT'S AN ATTACK? MAYBE WE HIT SOMETHING OR--
BREATHE DEEP. DON'T LET THOSE WHISPERS YOU'RE HEARING THROW YOU.
OURS IS A SIMPLE LIFE.
KEEP IT THAT WAY.
SOMEONE'S TRYING TO BOARD. WE GET GEARED UP.
WHUMP
GET ON TO THE SAFE ROOM, TEXAS.
YOU WATCH OVER THE OTHER KIDS.
GUT ANYONE THAT COMES YOUR WAY.
ROGER!
IT'S NOT THE JUDGE, THOUGH?
I MEAN, IS IT?
DOESN'T MATTER WHO.
I...
I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING TO DIE.
LIKE I'M A DISPOSABLE PIECE OF THE SHIP OR SOMETHING.
WE ARE DISPOSABLE IF IT MEANS KEEPING OUR FAMILY ALIVE.
THIS IS WHAT WE DO. TRADE OUR LIVES FOR THEIRS.
IT'S RIGHTEOUS.

"NOW, LET'S GET TOPSIDE AND DO OUR THING."

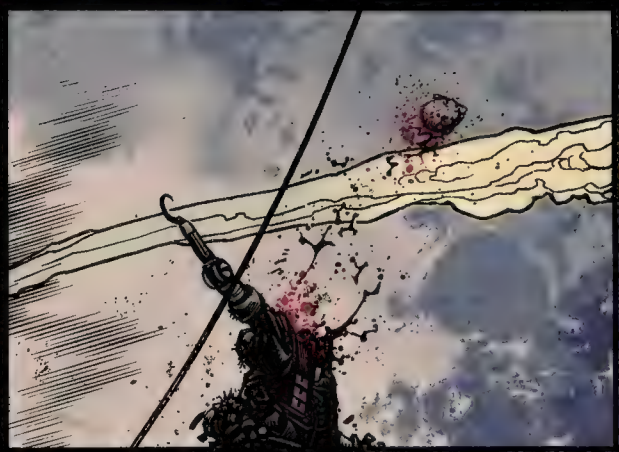
THIS RIG FLEW RIGHT OUT OF THE *RAD CLOUD* BEHIND US AND STARTED BOARDING.

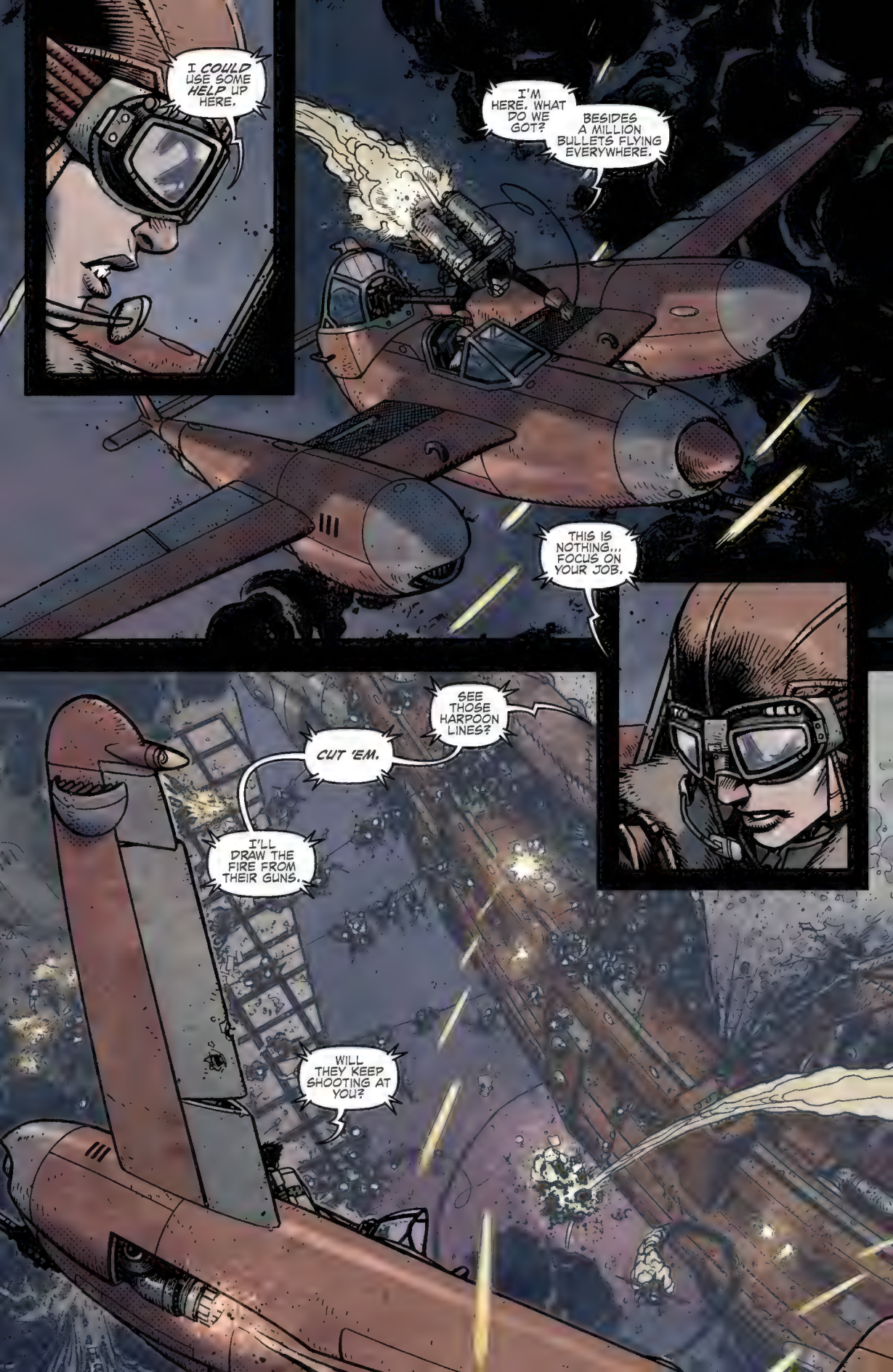
BRICK'S OFF SCOUTING.

OLIVIA'S HAILING HIM, BUT IT'S JUST YOU TWO AND COLA FOR NOW.

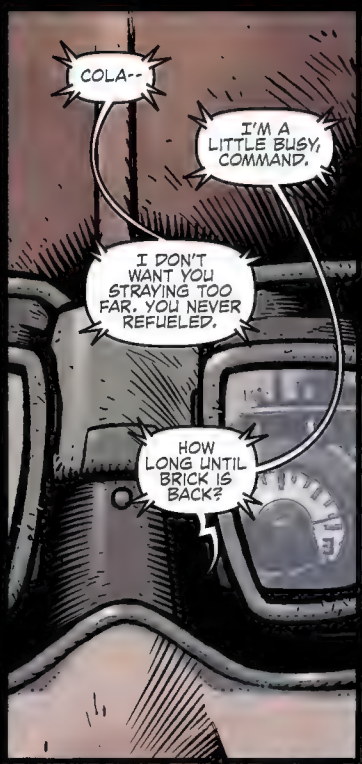
COLA DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH ROUNDS TO TAKE THEM ALL DOWN.

IT'S UP TO YOU TWO TO STEM THE TIDE.




I COULD USE SOME HELP UP HERE.
I'M HERE. WHAT DO WE GOT?
BESIDES A MILLION BULLETS FLYING EVERYWHERE.
THIS IS NOTHING... FOCUS ON YOUR JOB.
SEE THOSE HARPOON LINES?
CUT 'EM.
I'LL DRAW THE FIRE FROM THEIR GUNS.
WILL THEY KEEP SHOOTING AT YOU?

YOU BETTER HOPE SO.
RIGHT.
I'LL BE RIGHT ABOVE TO PICK YOU UP IF YOU RUN INTO TROUBLE.


COLA--
I'M A LITTLE BUSY, COMMAND.
I DON'T WANT YOU STRAYING TOO FAR. YOU NEVER REFUELED.
HOW LONG UNTIL BRICK IS BACK?

YOU DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. I WANT YOU TO DISENGAGE.
YOU'RE FLYING TOO CLOSE TO THOSE GUNS ON THEIR DECK.
I'M DRAWING THEIR FIRE SO SCRAM AND TUG CAN DO THEIR JOBS.

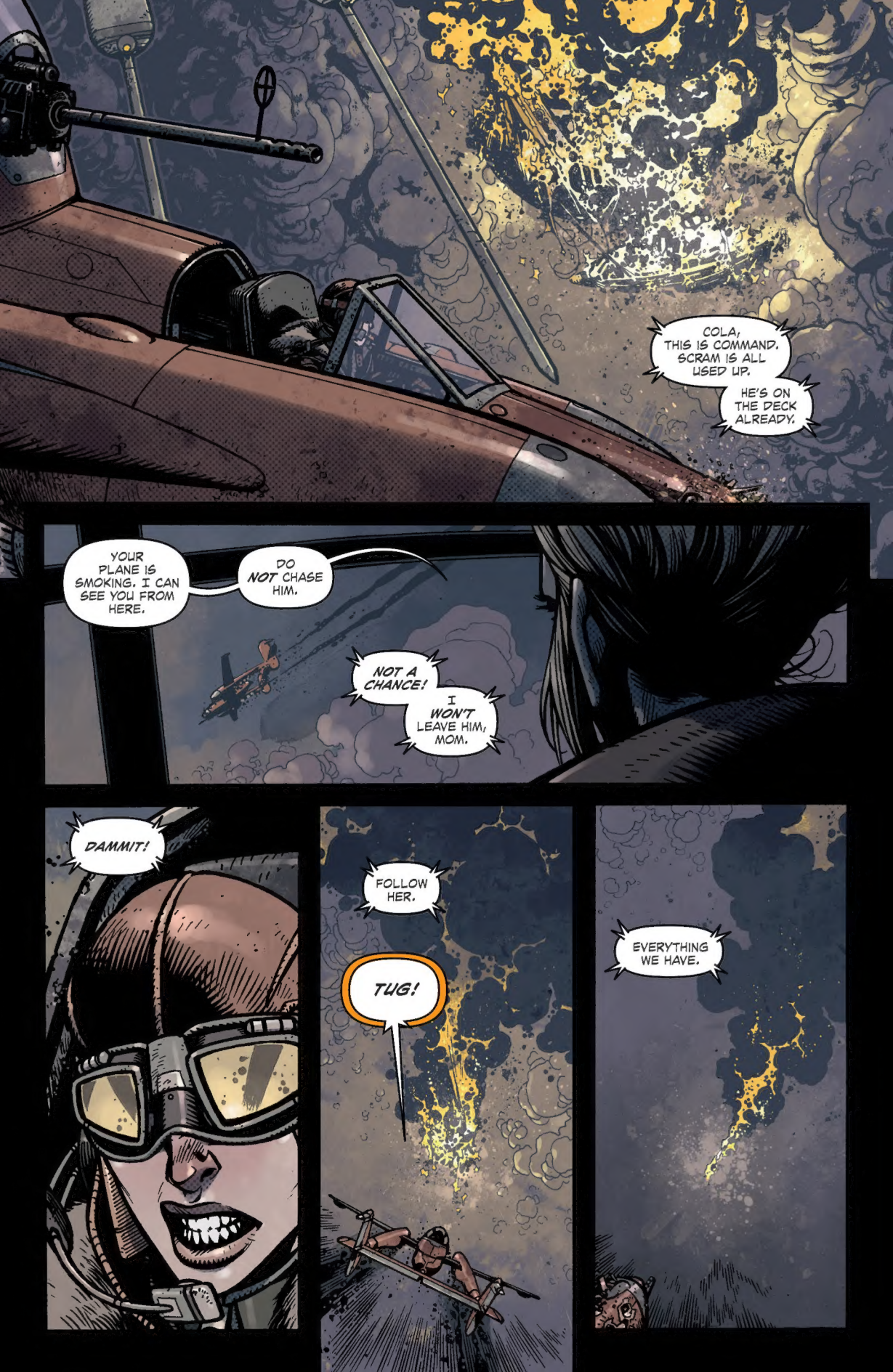
COME ON!
BURN!

GAH!
COLA, THEY'RE LIGHTING ME UP!
TINK!
TINK!
TINK!
TINK!
TINK!

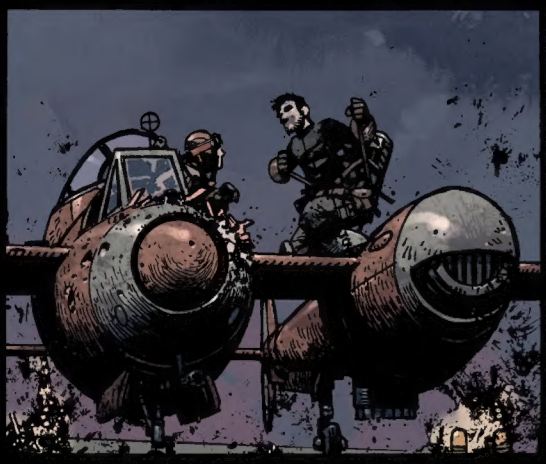
BUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDA
I'M HERE.
SEE, EVERYONE WANTS TO SHOOT DOWN A PLANE.
KEEP BURNING THAT ROPE, TUG!
COLA, GET OUT OF THERE! THAT'S AN ORDER!
DOON DOON DOON DOON
TUNK
TUNK
TUNK
TUNK
I'M ALMOST THROUGH!
I'M DINGED.
FTTHHP!
MY STICK'S SLUGGISH.
I'M DRAGGING.
I'M ON'IM!
I'M A SITTING TARGET OUT HERE.

DOON DOON DOON DOON DOON DOON
HE'S GOT ME.
WHAM!
FWOOM!
I THINK THEIR SHIP JUST EXPLODED.
WAS THAT ME?

OH... HI, SCRAM.
I TORE THE GUTS OF THIS BABY *APART.*
SHE WON'T BUG US *EVER* AGAIN.
GET GONE, TUG.
THIS RIG IS GOING DOWN.
GOT IT.
ARRRHHH!
GET OFF ME!
SCRAM! TUG IS STILL ON BOARD! HELP HIM!


COLA, THIS IS COMMAND. SCRAM IS ALL USED UP.
HE'S ON THE DECK ALREADY.
YOUR PLANE IS SMOKING. I CAN SEE YOU FROM HERE.
DO NOT CHASE HIM.
NOT A CHANCE!
I WON'T LEAVE HIM, MOM.
DAMMIT!
FOLLOW HER.
TUG!
EVERYTHING WE HAVE.

SPUT-
SPUTT-
SPUTTER
SPT-



END CHAPTER THREE

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TRICK OR TREAT '13